

Evening Telegraph

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1864.

BIRNEY.

By HENRY B. BIRNEY.

During the progress of the warlike march which was to cause the death of General Birney, he was frequently different. During those moments when reason and judgment were suspended, he was like a madman—like a man who had lost his wits. But when he was calm, he was like a wise and experienced general. He was frequently seen by his anxious watchers at the roadside—turning up the grass to see if there was any movement among the rebels. His words in this matter were to the effect that "he had no time to waste in looking after the rebels." He was frequently seen by his friends—looking over his shoulder, as it were, to see if his contrabands had followed him. In the silence, in the shadow, in the solitude of night, he was weary eyes that watched embraced him as he lay.

Through the trickling tears that lingered for the spirit's weary flight,

The ascent of a martyr's home of peace.

How the heavy hours wore onward—years or years, seem like every hour.

Time passed in such terrible anguish—days—

The blossoming of the bough into the future flower,

The mingling of the rolling of the river with the sea.

Was and wasted, fever-stricken, with his lumbars large eyes.

Throwing light adwart the darkness—the misery of the soul.

His soul traversed the distance, standing under other skies,

In the terror, and the horror, and the madness of the fight.

There, in the deadly meke, once again he led his men.

Through the whistling of the bullets and the crashing of the shell;

Through the clash of sword and bayonet, over upland, glade, and glen.

In the grasp of denchid foeman, who had made the land—a hell.

Place your battery on the hill, and let your guns rain.

He stood and while the watchers drew near and held their breath:

Now upon them with the bayonet, boys; charge cheerfully once again.

Came the fiery words that sparkled from the burning lips of death.

Fainter, fainter, every moment, deeper, darker grew the gloom;

Silence, silence on how heavy—not the slightest sound of some.

Save the broad breath of the sufferer, through the suffocating room.

And in echo, in the beating of the hearts that throbbed around.

Was a presence in the chamber, or had the night grown light?

So softly shone each countenance with its silent hopes and fears.

Following came the cry, one by one, through the watches of the night,

And the glistening—very sad to see—of the slowly falling tears.

Drawing nearer, with sharp'd hands as he faintly strove to rise,

His soul still in the conflict, that soul that could not lag,

With a groan, 'tis his voice, and lightning in his eye,

"Keep our eyes upon the flag, boy! keep your eyes upon the flag!"

Only once on History's pages such another

So passing, conquering Fate by his imperial will;

Till d'armes in his vision, Napoleon to the last,

Birney, like Birney living, dying was Birney still.

PHILADELPHIA, October, 1864.

NEUTRAL PORTS.

England's Violation of the Laws of Neutrality—The Capture of Copenhagen and Destruction of the Danish Fleet—The French Privateer "Attacked and Captured in Cuban Waters—The Case of the Privateer "General Armstrong"—In the Harbor of Foyal—Might versus Right—Historical Survey, Etc., Etc.

The recent capture by the United States sloops-of-war *Wachusett* of the Rebel privateer *Florida* in the Brazilian port of Bahia, under circumstances that at first blush would appear to be in violation of the neutrality of Brazil and the law of nations, has given a good deal of excited comment from the English press. This is easily seen by the Times," "Morning," and the *Evening Herald*, the *Times* again says, after ascertaining that it is quite as strong language that "the Washington Government does not release the *Florida* all the maritime Powers will have the right to interfere in the matter." Other papers, in their haste to meddle with an affair that is entirely between our Government and that of Brazil, grow furious over the affair, and call upon their Government to step into the arena and dictate a settlement before a single line has passed between the parties who primarily have an interest in the matter.

For the benefit and information of those reading these papers, we have taken into their keeping the history and digest of the principles involved in what is different from that issue in the *Florida* affair.

The other cases, which we give below, show pretty clearly the illegal, but vigorous mode of proceeding adopted by the English officers and crews in attacking and capturing the *General Armstrong*, when nothing but a flagrant breach of neutrality and a violation of international law to be committed to enable them to gain their ends. As long as these plain precedents stand, we may be sure that the *Florida* affair will be a good deal of excited comment from the English press.

The *Times* quotes from the *Evening Herald*, the *Times*, "morning," and the *Evening Herald*, the *Times*, again says, after ascertaining that it is quite as strong language that "the Washington Government does not release the *Florida* all the maritime Powers will have the right to interfere in the matter."

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We do not quote the affair of the *Caroline*, burned on the Niagara river by a band of soldiers who were armed with principles somewhat different from those at issue in the *Florida* affair.

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At the same moment the *Plattanet* of the British Royal Navy, in the Niagara river by a band of soldiers who were armed with principles somewhat different from those at issue in the *Florida* affair.

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